



Highlights of diocesan news in printable format — October 12, 2022

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From Canon Clark

What are the things that carry us along the way of following Jesus?

This is a transcript from a video message.

Hello, this is Canon Clark in the Diocese of Newark. Happy October!

In her last message, Bishop Hughes talked to us about beginning anew, how important that is for us in the world today, and for us as a diocese this fall, and all the ways that that can impact looking at what is before us, at being creative, and seeking to follow Jesus into what's next.

If you think about it, this really is at the heart of what it means to be Christian. The first disciples had to figure out what to do, how to do it, where to go, after Easter and all the events that followed and the ascension of Jesus. This is perhaps most pointedly expressed by Thomas when he says, "Lord, we do not know the way to where you are going." And Jesus says to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." And that is true. And we can trust that Jesus is our beginning and our ending in every aspect of our lives.

Sometimes it's hard to know how to get there, what we're supposed to do. You can almost hear Thomas saying, if only in his head, "Give me the directions!" In our time, we might say, "Give me the GPS coordinates!" The truth is, though, it's not only knowing where to go, it is that question of how do we do that? What are the things that carry us along the way of following Jesus.

We have two programs coming up this fall that I want to commend to your attention. And hopefully you will be able to attend, that are all about developing practices, developing the "how" of following Jesus.

The first one is on October 22, from about 8:30 in the morning till about 1 at St. Michael's, Wayne. It's called "Living Room Conversations" and it is put on by an organization of the same name. And in many ways, it's what it sounds like. It's not about how to debate the difficult issues of today or how to make our point better. It really is about how do we have healthy, meaningful conversations in these conflicted times, including with people that we may not agree with. Even in our own families, in our own churches. What does it look like to have respectful, meaningful conversations? And how do we do that? It would be great if there was a group from each and every parish in the diocese there to learn the "how" of having healthy, respectful communication, living room conversations.

The second is on Zoom on November 10. Dr. Jessica Young Brown, a wonderful psychologist, coach, professor, spiritual leader and Christian will be talking to us about, how do I seek God's will? How do I begin and develop a practice of Christian discernment? What does that look like? What are the skills and how do I keep that in my life at all times?

Both of these events are open for registration on the diocese website. And again, it would be great if there was a group, a team, from each and every parish and community in our diocese, seeking to develop these skills. This "how" we follow on the

way of Jesus, as we seek to be creative and to always begin anew in his name.

God bless you and I look forward to seeing you.

Diocesan Announcements

Third BCEF Call of 2022: Christ Church, Bloomfield/Glen Ridge

The Bishop's Church Emergency Fund (BCEF) provides financial support for church buildings in the diocese needing repairs and renovation, usually with a special focus on emergency and unforeseen needs. Through the BCEF, you can support the critical needs identified by the Bishop.

The third BCEF call of 2022 is for Hurricane Ida recovery at Christ Church, Bloomfield/Glen Ridge. You can donate online, or mail a check payable to Diocese of Newark with BCEF Call #3 in the memo line to: Diocese of Newark, Attn: BCEF, 31 Mulberry St., Newark, NJ 07102.

Christ Church, Bloomfield and Glen Ridge was actually founded in Bloomfield, which back in 1858 included Glen Ridge within its limits. When the original church was destroyed by fire in 1892, its replacement came to be situated in both Bloomfield and in the newly formed town of Glen Ridge. For good reason Christ Church has been called one of the most beautiful churches in our diocese. Designed by noted architect William Halsey Wood, the beautiful Gothic Revival structure features signed Tiffany windows, impressive stone arches in the crossing, and a more recently added 28-foot-wide labyrinth in the nave.

Before the pandemic crisis, Christ Church had an average weekly attendance of between 80 and 90 worshippers. Streaming services over the Internet has held the community together when in-person services were not possible. "The diversity of our congregation is a distinctive blessing to us," says the Rev. Diana Wilcox, who has served as rector of the parish since 2014. "Visitors on Sunday can simply feel how diverse our congregation is!"

Recent growth in the Bloomfield area has resulted in many new members, she explained, with people of color and the LGBTQ community being especially well represented.

Music has always had a prominent place in the life of Christ Church. The Adult Choir consists of 15 to 18 singers including four professional section leaders. Their repertoire ranges from traditional Anglican church music to jazz pieces and spirituals. The parish also houses a 1951 Moeller pipe organ, the console of which was completed restored in 2015, greatly enhancing the congregation's liturgical and musical life.

The Christ Church congregation's central ministry to the surrounding community is its year-round Nursery School, which offers complete childcare for over 100 children, infants through Kindergarten age. As a direct ministry of the church, the school meets the needs of an ever-increasing number of working mothers seeking quality childcare. In addition to her duties as Executive Director of the school, Mother Wilcox is temporarily serving as director of the school's day-to-day operations,

Like the other churches benefiting from this year's BCEF grants, Christ Church also suffered significant damage from Hurricane Ida at the end of August 2021. "Bloomfield Avenue became a virtual river," remembers Mother Wilcox. "Our exterior lighting was ripped out by the flood and mud and debris covered the floors of the church." Proceeds from their insurance have helped greatly with the recovery, she explained, but, after paying the deductibles, the parish was still left with a sizable number of storm-related expenses. I hope you will prayerfully consider making a generous contribution to assist this congregation as they strive to maintain the vital role they play in their local community.

God's peace,

+Carlye J. Hughes

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes
Bishop of Newark



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE GENERAL CONVENTION

Give Thanks for the Extraordinary Ministry of Louie Crew Clay

Resolved, That the House of Deputies of the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church give thanks for the extraordinary ministry of Louie Crew Clay (1936-2019); and be it further

Resolved, That we express appreciation for his faithful servant leadership to The Episcopal Church as a deputy to General Convention, member of Executive Council, leader on various interim bodies and task forces; and be it further

Resolved, That we recognize his ability to dialogue with anyone in a loving, non-judgmental manner in moving The Episcopal Church forward on issues regarding LGBTQ+ individuals, even at a personal cost, and his contribution to bringing the LGBTQ+ experience to literature; and be it further

Resolved, That we are grateful to him for bringing internet literacy to The Episcopal Church by maintaining comprehensive websites; and be it further

Resolved, That his leadership in his Diocese and his congregation, service on the Standing Committee, nominating committees, vestries and other commissions is an example to all servant leaders; and be it further

Resolved, That we commend his model of life, ministry, and leadership, which continue to give hope, inspiration, and strength to all of us as we struggle with issues within the Church, “For Joy anyway!”

The above document is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the General Convention at its meeting in Baltimore, Maryland from July 8 – 11, 2022, at which a quorum was present and voting.

The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe
Secretary of the General Convention
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society
of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER



The Episcopal Diocese of Newark

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Bishop's Office announcement: 31 Mulberry to be sold in 2024

September 29, 2022

Dear Companions on the Journey:

The physical limitations of the current Episcopal House at 31 Mulberry Street in Newark have been apparent for many years. While we appreciated the central Newark location, Bishops Croneberger, Beckwith, and I also recognized that the building itself presents challenges in adequately supporting the ministry of our staff, congregations and diocesan organizations.

In early 2021, New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC) asked the Bishop's Office to consider selling the building to the arts center as part of a major expansion project. In response, in April 2021 I called together a small committee, the 31 Mulberry Discernment Group, with the goal of determining if the current building could meet our ministry needs or if we needed to look for a new site.

After spending a year seeking input from staff, tenants, space use specialists, architects, and commercial realtors, the group recommended to the Trustees of the Diocese and to me, that indeed it was time to sell the building and look for a new site for Episcopal House.

As a result of their recommendation, a contract for the sale of 31 Mulberry Street to NJ PAC has been signed with closing to take place by September 2024. We have two years to find, purchase or lease property, prepare the property for use, and move.

NJ PAC intends to incorporate the building into their current plan for the further development of the area around the performing arts center.

The contract price of \$3.85M represents a significant premium to the appraised value of the building, which was possible because of NJ PAC's strong desire for the property. The proceeds will be used to cover the costs of acquiring, refitting and moving into the new facility, with the balance added to the endowment that supports the annual operating budget.

To take on the important and pressing task of finding a new site for Episcopal House, I have called a group comprised of members from every Region of the diocese and convened by Sam Reckford, Chief Financial Officer to make recommendation(s) to the Trustees and me. I expect this group will need at least a year for its work.

Among the group's considerations will be finding a location that can be a visible presence in the community; is welcoming and hospitable to visitors, including better parking; how our use of space has changed during the pandemic; and what this building can be to the wider diocese. The diocesan staff earnestly desires that the new location will allow them all to be on the same floor, as the current multi-floor configuration is detrimental to their work together. The group will be considering locations both in Newark and in the wider diocese.

After a new location for Episcopal House is selected, we will use the remaining time to prepare the property to best meet the needs of the diocesan staff and of the diocesan organizations that regularly use the building.

It's important to note that while the offices where the diocesan staff do much of their day-to-day work will be moving, our Cathedral – the seat of the Bishop – is staying right where it is at Trinity & St. Philip's. And in fact, it is poised on the cusp of an exciting time in its long history. (See *What's ahead for our Cathedral?*, below.)

The diocese has been through this discernment process four times in its history, from establishing its first dedicated headquarters in Newark in 1921, then moving to Orange, then moving back to Newark to reside first at 24 Rector Street and then 31 Mulberry Street. (See *101 years, 4 buildings: The history of diocesan headquarters*, below.) I invite your prayers as we embark on this endeavor for the fifth time.

Grace and peace,
Bishop Hughes

What's ahead for our Cathedral?

While the offices where the diocesan staff do much of their day-to-day work will be moving, our Cathedral – the seat of the Bishop – is staying right where it is at Trinity & St. Philip's in downtown Newark. And with the recent arrival of its first full-time priest since 2014, it is poised on the cusp of an exciting time in its long history.

"Make no mistake, we're not going away," says the Rev. George Dredde III, who arrived at the Cathedral on April 1 as a deacon serving as full-time clergy-in-charge and whose ordination to the priesthood was celebrated there on June 6.

"We are going to be here, and we are going to become a vital part of what happens here within the diocese and within the city of Newark and Essex County. We have some wonderful opportunities here to do this."

"I'm very humbled to be here," he continues. "There's such a loving congregation here. In spite of everything they've never lost hope and they've never lost their faith. And when I see the way that they approach with reverence what they do here – they're not looking for this pat on the back stuff, they're doing this because of their love of God and their love for that Cathedral, and they're doing, in many cases, so much with so little."

"Getting George was a blessing. I'm happy he's here and I know the church is as well," says Gordon Nelson, the Cathedral's Senior Warden. "He's the right man for the job – I think God picked him before I did."

"He's got a good outlook with community," Nelson continues, "opening up the church so that people know we're there."

Dredde, whose career before his call to ordained ministry includes senior administrative roles in New Jersey state and county governance – most recently as Chief of Staff to NJ Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce – is now putting the networking skills he honed in political circles to use for developing ministry.

"I've had some discussions with different entities around the diocese about doing different types of partnerships," he says, "and also for us as a congregation to become much more involved in activities outside of the Cathedral, where we go to other churches to participate and become more active and involved in the things that they're doing as well."

He hopes to form partnerships between the Cathedral's urban ministry and the ministries of suburban and rural congregations in the diocese. "We're right in the middle of a city, so we think that there is some real benefit to having those kind of cross-sections."

Dredde is also exploring relationships with other denominations and groups in Newark.

"This is some fertile ground for some of the things that NJPAC is trying to do here – I'm building some relationships on that side as well as well as with other community entities and also within the political structure here."

Under Dredde's leadership, the Cathedral has recently reinstated its Wednesday noon Eucharist and revitalized its music ministry. Recent visitors will have noticed that an area has been carved out to the left of the altar for musical instruments including the piano, drums, and an electric organ.

“We've got some wonderful musicians in this church – some of them had been professionals in another life, others are professionals now, others have talents that just amaze me,” Dredden says, “so we want to put that to good use. We do a mix between traditional and contemporary music here and it's been well received.”

The congregation is also looking outdoors. “I'd love to be able to utilize Military Park both in a more formal basis in conjunction with NJPAC and the city of Newark,” says Dredden, “but even more importantly you've got to remember we've got some grass space of our own – I'm also trying to see how we can utilize that in a much more visible way. Any way we can show that there's life here and vibrancy, we're going to do it.”

Dredden says that the Cathedral “was a very vibrant community for a good long time and now we're very happy to try to get back to that and then beyond. There's so much good work to be done here and there's so many people here who want to do it, so I'm energized to get to work.”

"It's hard work, he knows it," says Nelson, "but we have an opportunity to grow together. We're learning from each other."

Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral began in 1746 as Trinity Church, when it received its charter from King George II to be the first Anglican church in Newark. The original building was destroyed during the Revolutionary War after being used as a hospital by both American and British troops. The current building, completed in 1810, is the oldest Episcopal cathedral building in use in the nation.

As the first and “mother” church in Newark, Trinity served as the unofficial cathedral for many years, finally officially becoming Trinity Cathedral in 1944. In 1966 its congregation merged with the congregation of nearby St. Philip's Church, which had lost its building in a fire; the combined congregation adopted the name Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral in 1992.

101 years, 4 buildings: The history of diocesan headquarters

The history of the four buildings that have housed the Diocese of Newark's headquarters over the last century contains echoes of the same forces that have led us to search for our next headquarters.

For nearly half a century the diocese did not have a dedicated headquarters location. It rented office space in Newark or used available space in the bishop's residence. This make-shift arrangement persisted from the diocese's founding in 1874 until 1921.

1921-1929: The first Diocesan House – 21 Washington Street, Newark

The diocese purchased the building at 21 Washington Street in Newark early in the episcopate of the Rt. Rev. Edwin S. Lines, third Bishop of Newark (1903-1927), to serve as his residence and offices. Many diocesan meetings were held in the bishop's offices there, while the diocese rented the second floor of 49 Halsey Street for additional office space, later renting the third floor as well.

But, as reported in *The Newark Churchman*, the precursor to *The VOICE*: “As time went on the street cars invaded Washington Street and business made its appearance. It became less and less desirable as a place of residence” for the bishop. Bishop Lines had also been pushing for years for a more permanent solution for diocesan offices.

So in 1921 the diocese purchased a residence for the bishop in the quieter Forest Hill neighborhood, with 21 Washington Street becoming diocesan headquarters. In 1927, the building at 19 Washington Street came on the market and the diocese purchased it for expansion.

1929-1940: The second Diocesan House – 99 Main Street, Orange

In 1929 American Insurance Company, seeking a location to build a skyscraper in downtown Newark, offered to buy the diocese's buildings at 19-21 Washington Street. "The price offered for the properties was such that the Finance and Advisory Board felt that there could be no justification for their not accepting it," reported the April 1929 issue of *The Newark Churchman*.

Meanwhile, what was then Grace Church in Orange (now Epiphany and Christ Church) had built a new parish house, leaving its old parish house sitting unused. Grace offered the building, located at 99 Main Street in Orange, to the diocese as a temporary headquarters.

This fit well with the diocese's plans at the time. Mindful that congregations were expanding westward, and that there was not yet an official cathedral, the diocese had purchased land in Cedar Grove as the intended location of the Cathedral of All Saints plus a new diocesan headquarters. So, the bishop – then the Rt. Rev. Wilson R. Stearly, fourth Bishop of Newark (1927-1935) – and the diocesan staff moved to Orange, closer to their intended final location, and fundraising began to build a cathedral and new headquarters.

Then in October 1929 the stock market crashed, and with it the diocese's plans.

1940-1997: Cathedral House – 24 Rector Street, Newark

Diocesan headquarters remained in Orange until 1940, when a plan was put in place with Trinity Church in Newark, which as the "mother church" in Newark served as the unofficial cathedral. (It officially became Trinity Cathedral in 1944. In 1992 the Cathedral officially changed its name to Trinity & St. Philip's, in recognition of its 1966 merger with the historically Black congregation of St. Philip's, Newark, which had lost their building in a fire.)

Trinity Church owned 24 Rector Street, the location of its parish house and graveyard. Trinity needed a new parish house, and the diocese needed a more permanent location for their headquarters. The solution was to tear down the old parish house, relocate the graveyard, and build a brand-new building which would serve as both a headquarters for the diocese and a parish house and offices for Trinity.

The May 1941 issue of *The Newark Churchman* reports that in addition to offices for the Rt. Rev. Benjamin M. Washburn (fifth Bishop of Newark, 1935-1958), Trinity's dean and their staffs, the new Cathedral House included All Saints' Chapel (named for the cathedral that was never built), a library, a kitchen, a choir room, and a board room plus smaller meeting rooms. It also included an auditorium with gallery that seated 600, used as the site of some Diocesan Conventions; and on the floor below it, a full-sized basketball gymnasium with bleachers, used to host diocesan youth lock-ins. Diocesan staff member John King, who attended some of those lock-ins in the late 1980s and early 1990s, recalled of the gymnasium, "It was a really cool facility."

Incidentally, 24 Rector Street is the only one of the four diocesan headquarters that was built specifically for the needs of the diocese. It remained the diocesan headquarters through most or all of the episcopates of the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth Bishops of Newark.

1997-present: Episcopal House – 31 Mulberry Street, Newark

In 1996, near the end of the tenure of the Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong, eighth Bishop of Newark (1979-2000), New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC) purchased the property at 24 Rector Street. As part of the transaction the Cathedral received a 99-year lease to continue to maintain its offices and parish house space at 24 Rector Street, and the diocese received for its new headquarters 31 Mulberry Street, which had been vacated by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark.

After extensive renovations to bring 31 Mulberry Street up to fire codes and outfit it for Bishop Spong and the diocesan staff, they moved in in February 1997.